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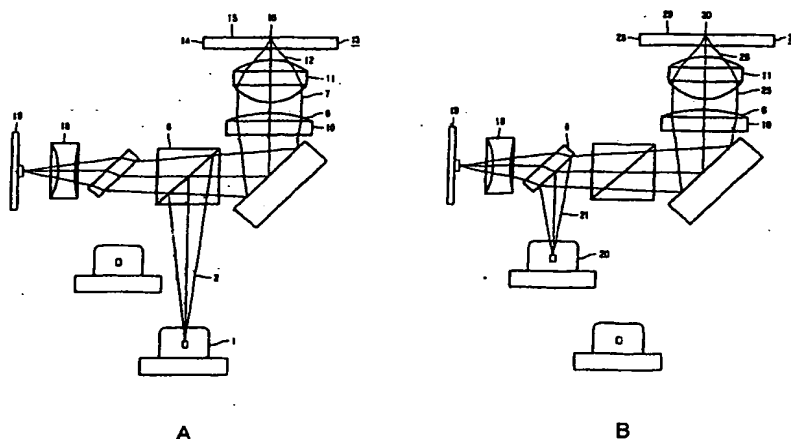
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(54) Title: OPTICAL SCANNING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device for scanning a first (13) and a second (27) type of record carrier in a first and a second mode, respectively, comprises a radiation-generating device (1, 20) for generating a radiation beam (2, 21) having at least a first wavelength in the first mode and at least a second wavelength in the second mode. The device further comprises an objective system (11) for focusing (16) the radiation beam (2) of the first wavelength in the first mode on the first type of record carrier and for focusing (30) the radiation beam (21) of the second wavelength in the second mode on the second type of record carrier (27). The optical scanning device further comprises an optical element (10) with a structure in the radiation beam (2, 21) for introducing vergence and aberration in the radiation beam (21) of the second wavelength. The aberration can be written as a polynomial with at least two terms a_{272} and a_{474} . If $a_{272}=0$ and $a_{474}=0$, the corresponding values of a_4 and a_2 are given by a_{40} and a_{20} , respectively. a_2 , a_4 , a_{20} and a_{40} satisfy the relation $0.9 < ((a_2/a_{20}) + (a_4/a_{40})) < 1.1$, as well as either the relation $0.20 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 0.90$ (if $a_4 < 0$) or the relation $1.05 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 2.00$ (if $a_4 > 0$).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Optical scanning device

The invention relates to an optical scanning device for scanning a first and a second type of record carrier in a first and a second mode, respectively, the device comprising a radiation-generating device for generating a radiation beam having at least a first wavelength in the first mode and at least a second wavelength in the second mode, an objective system for forming the radiation beam of the first wavelength to a focus in the first mode on the first type of record carrier and for forming the radiation beam of the second wavelength to a focus in the second mode on the second type of record carrier, and a structured optical element arranged separately with respect to elements of the objective system in the radiation beam for introducing aberration in the radiation beam of the second wavelength.

An optical scanning device of this type is known from United States patent 6,067,283. This patent describes such an optical scanning device which is compatible for reproducing CDs and DVDs. When comparing the construction of the CD and DVD, it appears that the distance between the outer surface of the DVD and the surface in which the information has been recorded, and which distance is formed by the thickness of a transparent layer, is 0.6 mm. In the CD, the same distance is equal to the thickness of a transparent layer of 1.2 mm. When using an optical scanning device in which radiation is converged to a focus at the area of the layer in which the information has been recorded, the larger thickness of the transparent layer in CDs will lead to aberration of the wavefront if the optical scanning device is adapted to scan DVDs. In the United States patent 6,067,283, the aberration which is produced is not further discussed. The patent neither describes how the aberration is eliminated other than by means of a hologram on the separate optical element. It will be apparent from the following paragraph that the description given in this patent leaves those skilled in the art uncertain about the exact solution of the problem described.

In the case, described in said US patent, of using a diffractive structure on a separate plate, i.e. a structure not arranged on the or a lens of the objective system itself, there are two ways known to those skilled in the art for the phase correction related to the aberration. The initial situation is that the optical scanning device is adapted without further correction to scan DVDs and that correction is required to scan CDs. The reverse situation,

an optical scanning device adapted to scan CDs without further corrections and corrections required for DVDs will be obvious to those skilled in the art after reading the following paragraph and will not be further discussed.

First, the diffractive structure may be such that the phase correction for CDs

5 follows a second power function modulo 2π , which means that the diffractive structure has a period which becomes quadratically smaller with an increase of the radial distance from a center. Consequently, a less converging and more diverging beam is formed so that the source is no longer seemingly infinitely far away for the objective system itself but is seemingly at a finite distance. As a result, there will be spherical aberration in the objective
10 system. By a correct choice of the variation of the period of the diffractive structure with the distance to the center of this structure, such a conjugated distance for the objective system is determined that the spherical aberration which results from the larger thickness of the transparent layer is compensated in CDs by the spherical aberration which is produced in the objective system as a result of the finiteness of the conjugated system.

15 Secondly, the diffractive structure may be such that the phase correction for CDs follows a fourth power function modulo 2π . In this way, spherical aberration is formed in and by the diffractive structure itself, while the vergence of the beam is not changed and the spherical aberration introduced in the radiation beam and formed in the diffractive structure is sufficient and of opposite sign to compensate the spherical aberration resulting
20 from the larger thickness of the transparent layer on CDs.

The known solutions described above, i.e. either introducing a vergence change or changing the aberration state of the radiation beam without a change of vergence have the following drawbacks.

25 If the diffractive structure is such that the phase correction follows a second power function modulo 2π , the positioning in the radial direction of the diffractive structure is not very critical. However, due to the change of vergence of the radiation beam between the diffractive structure and the objective system, the Abbe sine condition is no longer satisfied. As a result, a large extent of aberrations in the form of coma is produced outside the axis of the objective system.

30 On the other hand, a diffractive structure which is such that the phase correction follows a fourth power function modulo 2π complies with the sine condition due to the combination of the diffractive structure and the lens, and the extent of aberrations in the form of coma outside the axis of the objective system is limited. However, in this case, the tolerances for lateral, i.e. radial displacement of the diffractive structure and the objective

system with respect to each other are extremely critical.

In addition to said diffractive structure for providing phase corrections, non-diffractive structures for providing phase corrections are known. An example has been described in European patent application EP 0 865 037 A1. This application relates to

5 structures having stepped, non-periodical annular zones. It also holds for these structures that a structure which is such that a phase correction follows a second power function modulo 2π leads to a large extent of aberrations in the form of coma outside the axis of the objective system.

10 It also holds that such a non-periodical structure which is such that a phase correction follows a fourth power function modulo 2π leads to extremely critical tolerances for lateral, i.e. radial displacement of the structure and the objective system with respect to each other.

15 It is an object of the invention to provide an optical scanning device which is both not very critical with respect to the lateral, i.e. radial positioning of the structure and the objective system with respect to each other and as regards the extent of coma outside the axis of the objective system.

According to the invention, this object is achieved in that the aberration introduced by the separate, structured optical element for the second wavelength comprises both a vergence change and a spherical aberration.

20 It is thereby achieved that the sensitivity of the radial positioning of the structured optical element is surprisingly considerably less than when the structure produces a phase correction with only a fourth power function modulo 2π . On the other hand, it has also been surprisingly found that the quantity of coma outside the axis is considerably less than the quantity of coma resulting from a diffractive structure which generates a phase
25 correction with a second power function modulo 2π . It is thereby achieved that, due to the difference of thickness of the transparent layer in CDs and DVDs (i.e. after compensation by the aberration resulting from the vergence change) is partly eliminated by aberration which is generated in the objective system as a result of the fact that the structured optical element produces a vergence change of the through-going beam and the other, remaining, part is
30 eliminated because the spherical aberration introduced by the structured optical element corresponds to and is opposite to the remaining aberration introduced by the difference of thickness.

A preferred embodiment of an optical scanning device according to the invention is characterized in that a phase function of the aberration introduced by the separate

structured optical element for the second wavelength can be written as a function of the normalized pupil ray as a polynomial having at least the two terms $a_2 \cdot \rho^2$ and $a_4 \cdot \rho^4$.

A diffractive surface is known from international patent application WO 99/57720 which is described by a polynomial phase function of the form $\text{phase} = c_2 r + c_4 r^4$.

5 Here, c_2 forms a diffractive strength term which controls a correction for chromatic aberration and c_4 is an aspherical strength term which controls correction for spherical aberration. The numerical values given in said international patent application have been given without units. It is therefore impossible to understand the meaning of the values given for the coefficients c_2 and c_4 . Furthermore, the diffractive structure in said international
10 application is provided on an entrance face of an element of the objective system. Such a provision may be effected accurately in such a way that the problem for which the present invention provides a solution, namely the extremely critical tolerances for lateral positioning of a separate, structured optical element which is not arranged on a lens, does not occur at all.

It is thereby achieved that the structure to be provided on the structured
15 element produces both a vergence change and spherical aberration in the beam passing through the structured optical element in an extremely simple way.

A further preferred embodiment of an optical scanning device according to the invention is characterized in that a_{20} and a_{40} are the values of a_2 and a_4 , respectively, which are required to correct the total spherical aberration in the case where $a_4 = 0$ and $a_2 = 0$,
20 respectively, and that a_2 and a_4 are defined by the relation $0.9 < ((a_2/a_{20}) + (a_4/a_{40})) < 1.1$.

A certain balance is thereby reached between the extent of spherical aberration which is introduced by the objective system as a result of the vergence change of the beam and the extent of aberration which is introduced in the beam by the structured optical element itself.

25 Another preferred embodiment of an optical scanning device according to the invention is characterized in that a_2 and a_{20} are defined either by the relation $0.20 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 0.9$ in the case where $a_4 < 0$ or by the relation $1.05 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 2.00$ in the case where $a_4 > 0$.

An even greater extent of balance has thereby been reached between the extent
30 of aberration introduced by the objective system as a result of the vergence change introduced by the structured optical element and the extent of aberration introduced by the structured optical element itself.

It is thereby achieved that, dependent on the requirements imposed on the specific optical scanning device, phase corrections can be provided which follow specific

combinations of second and fourth power functions. Such phase corrections lead to a considerable tolerance in the lateral positioning of the structured optical element as well as to a small extent of aberrations in the form of coma.

These and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

In the drawings:

Figs. 1A and 1B show a scanning device according to the invention;

Fig. 2A is a cross-section through a plate with a structure, an objective system and a transparent layer on a DVD;

Fig. 2B is a cross-section through a plate with a structure, an objective system and a transparent layer on a CD;

Fig. 3A shows the optical path length difference for a DVD;

Fig. 3B shows the optical path length difference for a CD;

Fig. 4A shows the optical path length difference for a CD with 0.05 mm lateral displacement of a plate having a diffractive structure with respect to the objective system;

Fig. 4B shows the optical path length difference for the case of a CD with a 0.5° field;

Fig. 5 shows a Table with four different embodiments, stating the extent of coma for each embodiment as a result of the displacement and as a result of the field;

Fig. 6 shows a Table which is similar to Fig. 5 for two structures which do not comply with the requirements of the invention.

Fig. 1A shows an embodiment of the optical scanning device according to the invention. The device has an optical path for reading and writing information on a first type of record carrier having a short wavelength and an optical path for reading a second type of record carrier having a long wavelength. The optical path comprises a radiation source 1, for example, a semiconductor laser which emits a linearly polarized divergent radiation beam 2 having a first wavelength of, for example, 650 nm. The beam passes through a polarizing beam splitter 5 which has a high transmission for the radiation beam. A collimator lens 6 converges radiation beam 2 to a collimated beam 7. A plate 10 having a structure according to the invention is fully transparent to the beam 2. An objective lens 11 changes the

collimated beam 7 to a converging beam 12 for scanning a record carrier 13. The record carrier 13 is of a first type having a high density and comprises a transparent layer 14 having a thickness of, for example, 0.6 mm and an information layer 15 on which the converging beam 12 is formed to a focus 16. The radiation reflected by information layer 15 returns

5 along the optical path of beams 12 and 7. The reflected beam is converged by collimator lens 6 and passed by polarizing beam splitter 5. A negative lens 18 in the optical path facilitates the adjustment of the position of focus 16. The reflected beam is incident on a detector system 19 which supplies an information signal as an output signal and represents the information stored in information layer 15.

10 The optical path of the second mode used for scanning the second type of record carrier is shown in Fig. 1B and comprises a radiation source 20, for example, a semiconductor laser which emits a linearly polarized diverging radiation beam 21 having a second wavelength of, for example, 780 nanometers. Radiation beam 21 is reflected by a dichroic beam splitter 8. Collimator lens 6 converges radiation beam 21 to a collimated beam
15 25. The plate 10 with the structure adds vergence and spherical aberration to beam 21. Objective lens 11 changes the collimated beam 25 into a converging beam 26. Generally, beam 26 has a smaller numerical aperture than beam 12. The converging beam 26 is suitable for scanning a record carrier 27 of the second type. The record carrier 27 has a transparent layer 28 with a thickness of, for example, 1.2 mm and an information layer 29. The
20 converging beam 26 comes to a focus 30 on information layer 29. Radiation reflected by information layer 29 returns along the path of the beams 26 and 21 and is passed by dichroic beam splitter 8 to the negative lens 18 and the detector system 19.

The objective lens 11 is designed to converge in the first mode the collimated beam 7 of the first wavelength through a transparent layer 14 so as to form a focus 16 on
25 information layer 15. The spherical aberration sustained by the converging beam 12 when passing through transparent layer 14 is compensated in objective lens 11. The objective lens complies with the Abbe sine conditions. If transparent layer 14 is not present in a specific embodiment of the record carrier, the objective lens 11 should not be compensated for spherical aberration. In the second mode, the radiation beam passes through transparent layer
30 28 with a thickness which differs from that of the transparent layer 14. As a result, the beam 26 undergoes a different extent of spherical aberration and this extent of spherical aberration is therefore not compensated by the objective lens 11.

The diffractive structure 10 is chosen to be such that it does not have any effect on the beam 21. A way in which this can be realized has been described in European

patent application EP 00203998.0 in the name of the applicant. This application also shows in which way the structure 10 may be a diffractive structure which can work as a blazed grating for the beam 7. Moreover, European patent application EP 00203066.6 in the name of the applicant describes the criteria with which a lens having such a structure must comply. The

5 article by Jorrit E. de Vries and Benno W. Hendriks "Non-periodic phase structures in optical disc systems", Proceedings of Optical Data Storage, Sante Fe (2001) further describes in which way the structure 10 can be formed with stepped, non-periodic annular zones. As described in this article, such non-periodic structures cannot be indicated as diffractive structures as such. Nevertheless, for the sake of simplicity of linguistic usage in the
10 description and claims, the term "diffractive structure" is understood to be both diffractive structures in their conventional meaning and non-periodic zone structures. Such a structure is herein also indicated by the term of diffractive structure.

The diffractive structure 10 produces a phase correction in the beam 7 which forms a linear combination of a second-power function and a fourth-power function. A
15 compromise is thereby found between the poor performance outside the axis of a structure which only introduces the vergence in the beam 7 and the very critical lateral positioning of a structure which introduces a phase correction described by a fourth power function in the beam 7.

The phase correction which is introduced by the diffractive structure 10 can be
20 generally described by the function $\Phi(\rho) = a_2 \cdot \rho^2 + a_4 \cdot \rho^4 + O(\rho^{2n}; n \geq 3)$ wherein ρ is the normalized pupil ray, i.e. $\rho = 1$ at the edge of the aperture stop. Note that, when choosing a different type of pupil co-ordinate, the coefficients a_2 and a_4 change accordingly. The higher-order term $O(\rho^{2n}; n \geq 3)$ indicates that $\Phi(\rho)$ in any case comprises a second-power and a fourth-power term.

25 The maximal lateral displacement from the center of the diffractive structure 10 to the center of objective 11 will be indicated as Δ . The maximum field angle of the diffractive structure 10 will be indicated as γ , a_{20} indicates the value of a_2 which is necessary for correcting the total spherical aberration at $a_4 = 0$ (i.e. only a second power term in $\Phi(\rho)$). Likewise, a_{40} indicates the value of a_4 which is necessary for correcting the total spherical
30 aberration at $a_2 = 0$ (only a fourth-power term in $\Phi(\rho)$). If $a_2 = 0$, the system as shown in Fig. 1B is very sensitive to lateral displacements of the structure 10 and if $a_4 = 0$, the system shown in Fig. 1B is tolerant for lateral position shifts of the structure 10 but is beset with a considerable extent of aberrations in the form of coma outside the axis of the optical system

shown in Fig. 1B.

To obtain a system which is both tolerant to lateral displacements of the structure 10 and to the field, i.e. the presence of an angle between the direction of the axis of the structure 10 and the axis of the optical device shown in Fig. 1, optimal values of a_2 and

5 a_4 can be found for lateral displacements Δ (both for large and small displacements). With these values of a_2 and a_4 , the structure 10 can be subsequently manufactured in known manner.

Small displacements Δ mean that $(f/75) < \Delta < f*((\gamma/18^\circ) + 1/110)$, hereinafter also indicated as condition 1, in which f is the focal distance of the objective system 11 and Δ and f are expressed in the same quantity, for example, millimeters and γ is expressed in
10 degrees. For such small displacements Δ , the optimal value of a_4 becomes negative. The sign of a_4 is determined by the sign convention used for wavefront aberrations. In the relevant description, the sign convention has been laid down by determining that, when the image plane of the lens is moved, the wave front aberration (in that case the focus) is positive. This
15 condition is independent of the numerical aperture of the objective system 11 and of the wavelength. For small displacements Δ as defined above, a good compromise is found between aberrations outside the axis and aberrations as a result of a lateral displacement if a_2 and a_4 satisfy $0.20 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 0.9$ (condition 2), $a_4 < 0$ and $0.9 < ((a_2/a_{20}) + (a_4/a_{40})) < 1.1$ (condition 3).

20 If larger lateral displacements Δ can be expected, the aberrations as a result of the displacement become so large that they should be reduced at the expense of the performance with respect to the field. As a result, an optimum can be found for $a_4 > 0$ in such situations. Such Δ are given in the range: $\Delta > f*((\gamma/18^\circ) + 1/110)$ (condition 4). In such a situation an optimal compromise is found between aberrations in the field and aberrations as
25 a result of lateral displacements if $1.05 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 2.00$ (condition 5), $a_4 > 0$ and in which also $0.9 < ((a_2/a_{20}) + (a_4/a_{40})) < 1.1$.

Figs. 2A and 2B show a structure 10, an objective system 11 and a transparent layer 14 on a first type of record carrier, and a transparent layer 28 on a second type of record carrier. The situation shown in Fig. 2A relates to, for example, DVD and a situation shown in
30 Fig. 2B relates to for example CD. In Fig. 2A, the beam 2 passes unhindered through the structure 10, while in Fig. 2B the beam 21, after passing through the structure 10, has a small but sufficient extent of divergence as compared with beam 7 so as to generate an extent of spherical aberration in the objective lens 11, which largely compensates the spherical

aberration as a result of the thicker transparent layer 28. However, the extent of divergence of the beam 25 in Fig. 2B is not sufficiently large to fully compensate the spherical aberration caused by the transparent layer 28 by means of the spherical aberration caused by the divergence produced in the objective system 11. Complete compensation would lead to a

5 large extent of coma in the area around the focus 30. Figs. 2A and 2B relate to embodiment 1 which is further specified in Table 1 in Fig. 5. Embodiments 1 to 4 shown in the Table in Fig. 5 will now be discussed separately.

For embodiment 1, Δ complies with condition 1, $a_4 < 0$ and the value of a_2/a_{20} is 0.50 and thereby satisfies condition 2. The coma resulting from the displacement Δ and the
10 field γ are approximately equal. Fig. 3 shows that a good quality of the light spot in the focus is achieved with a structure 10 as shown in embodiment 1. Figs. 4A and 4B also show that the aberrations are approximately equal both for the displacement $\Delta = 0.5$ mm and for the field $\gamma = 0.5^\circ$.

For embodiment 2, Δ is larger than for embodiment 1 and the coefficient a_2
15 will be larger than for embodiment 1. Condition 1 has been satisfied, $a_2/a_{20} = 0.89$ so that also condition 2 is satisfied. Due to the larger Δ , both coma resulting from the displacement and coma resulting from the field are larger than in embodiment 1 so as to have the best compromise between the negative consequences of displacement and the negative consequences of field.

For embodiment 3, an objective lens with $f = 1.8$ mm is chosen. For this lens
20 with $\gamma = 0.5^\circ$, the maximum value of Δ guaranteeing that $a_4 < 0$ should not be larger than 0.06 mm in accordance with condition 1. In this embodiment, $\Delta = 0.05$ mm so that condition 1 is satisfied. The optimal combination of displacement tolerance and large field yields a value $a_2/a_{20} = 0.70$ so that condition 2 is also satisfied.

For embodiment 4, the maximal displacement Δ is so large that a positive
25 value of a_4 is obtained. Instead of complying with condition 1, condition 4 is now satisfied. Since $a_2/a_{20} = 1.07$, condition 5 instead of condition 2 is satisfied. The coma resulting from displacement and the coma resulting from the field are considerably larger than for, for example embodiment 1. However, with the given values for a_2 and a_4 , a good compromise is
30 achieved between large displacement tolerances and a large field.

The Table in Fig. 6 shows examples a and b in which at least one of the previously mentioned conditions is not satisfied.

For embodiment a, the field is reduced to 0.3° but with a smaller displacement

Δ . This is a situation which comes close to the upper limit of condition 1. Condition 2 is not satisfied. An optimal correction is achieved with an almost pure second-order correction and $a_2 \approx a_{20}$.

For embodiment b, Δ is very close to the upper limit given by condition 1.

-
- 5 Condition 2 is not satisfied. For this embodiment, the coma values for both cases are significantly different.

After the foregoing, different modifications and embodiments will be evident to those skilled in the art. All of these modifications and embodiments are considered to be within the scope of the invention.

CLAIMS:

1. An optical scanning device for scanning a first (13) and a second (27) type of record carrier in a first and a second mode, respectively, the device comprising a radiation-generating device (1, 20) for generating a radiation beam (2, 7, 21, 25) having at least a first wavelength in the first mode and at least a second wavelength in the second mode, an objective system (11) for forming the radiation beam (2, 7) of the first wavelength to a focus (16) in the first mode on the first type of record carrier (13) and for forming the radiation beam (21, 25) of the second wavelength to a focus (30) in the second mode on the second type of record carrier (27), and a structured optical element (10) arranged separately with respect to the elements of the objective system in the radiation beam (2, 7, 21, 25) for introducing aberration in the radiation beam (25) of the second wavelength, characterized in that the aberration introduced by the separate, structured optical element (10) for the second wavelength comprises both a vergence change and a spherical aberration.
2. An optical scanning device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a phase function of the aberration introduced by the separate, structured optical element (10) for the second wavelength can be written as a function of the normalized pupil ray as a polynomial having at least the two terms $a_2 \cdot \rho^2$ and $a_4 \cdot \rho^4$.
3. An optical scanning device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a_{20} and a_{40} are the values of a_2 and a_4 , respectively, which are required to correct the total spherical aberration in the case where $a_4=0$ and $a_2=0$, respectively, and in that a_2 and a_4 are defined by the relation $0.9 < ((a_2/a_{20}) + (a_4/a_{40})) < 1.1$.
4. An optical scanning device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a_2 and a_{20} are defined either by the relation $0.20 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 0.9$ in the case where $a_4 < 0$ or by the relation $1.05 < (a_2/a_{20}) < 2.00$ in the case where $a_4 > 0$.

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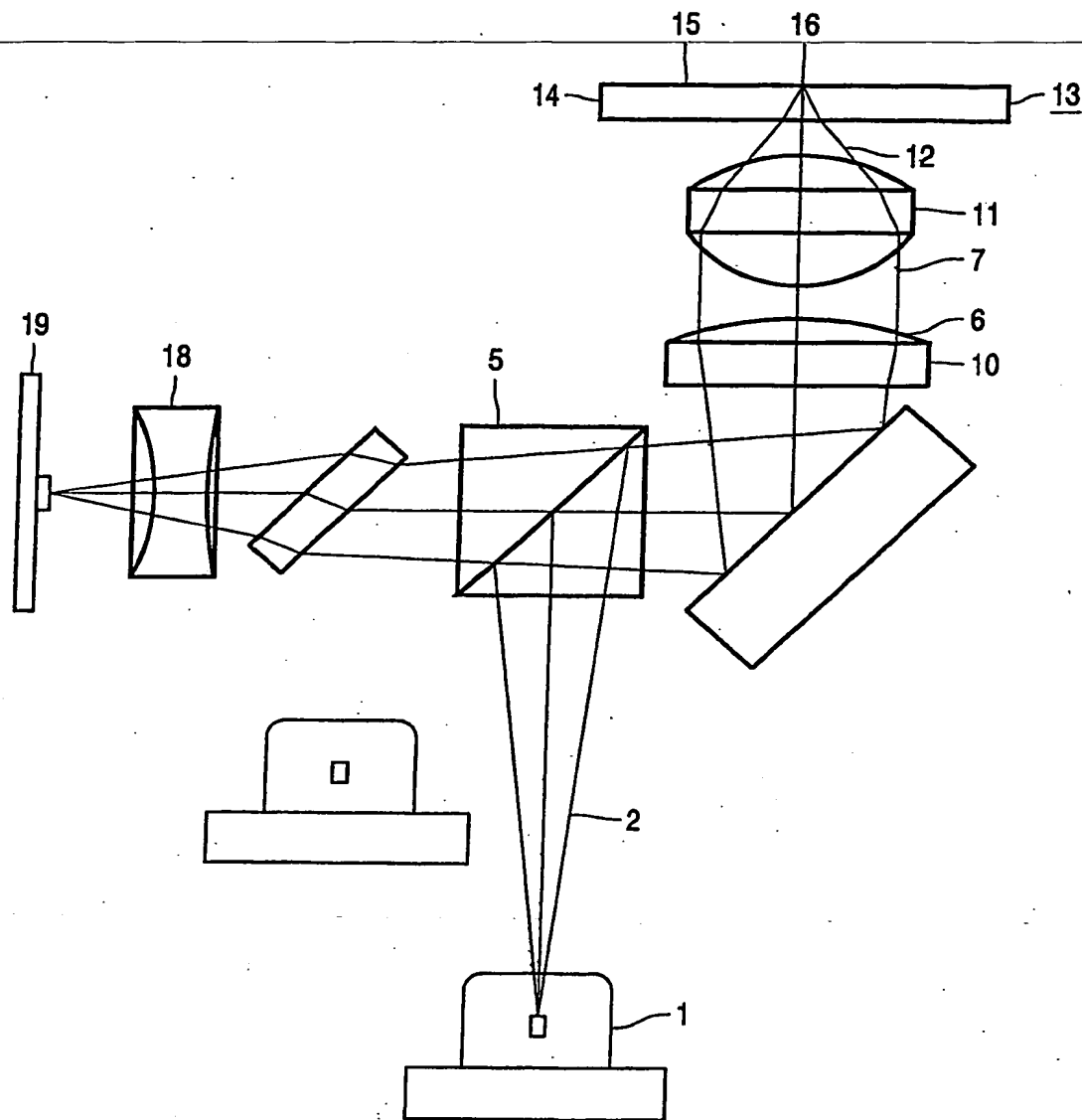


FIG. 1A

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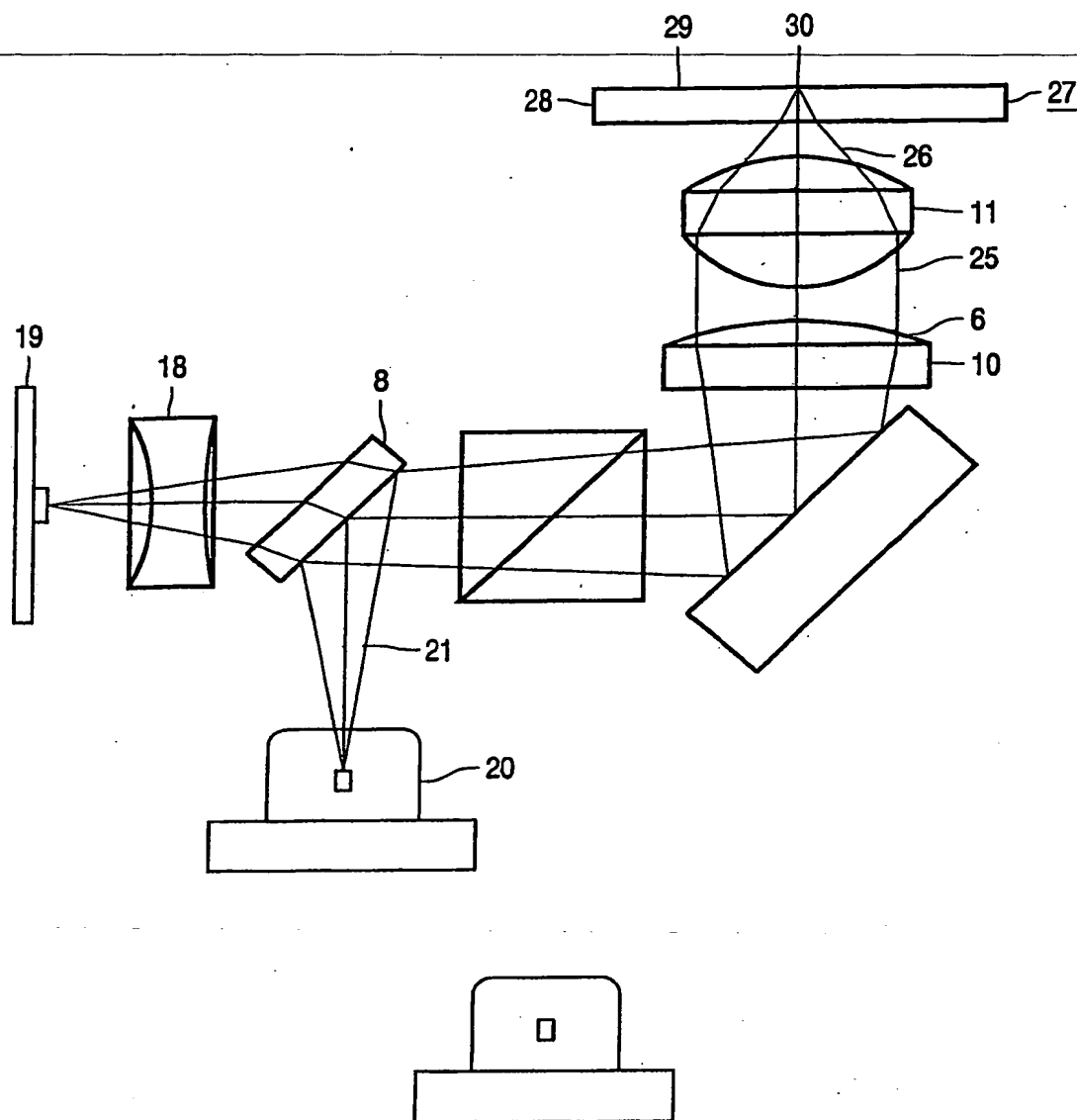


FIG. 1B

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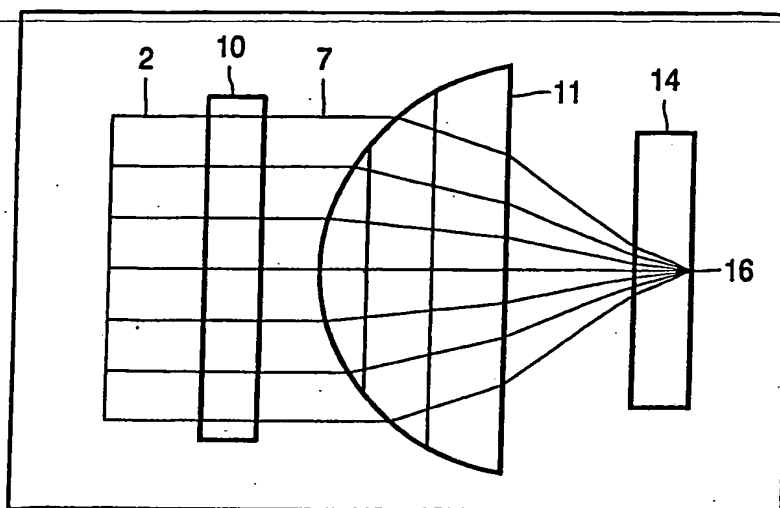


FIG. 2A

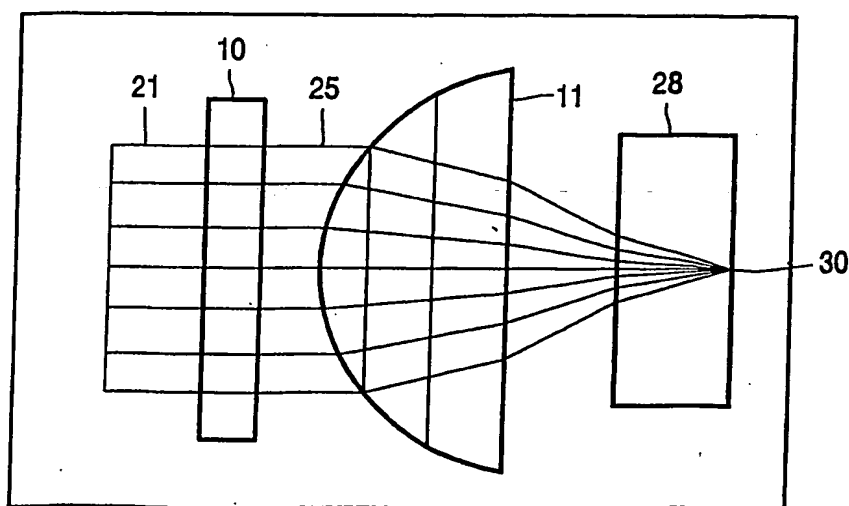


FIG. 2B

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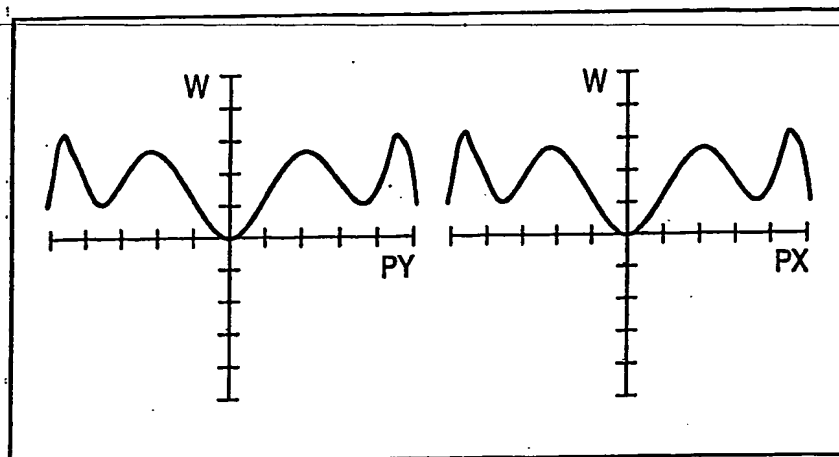


FIG. 3A

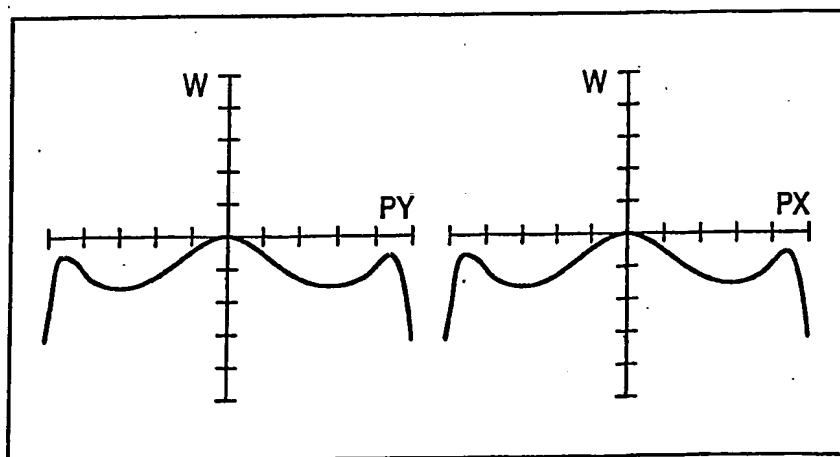


FIG. 3B

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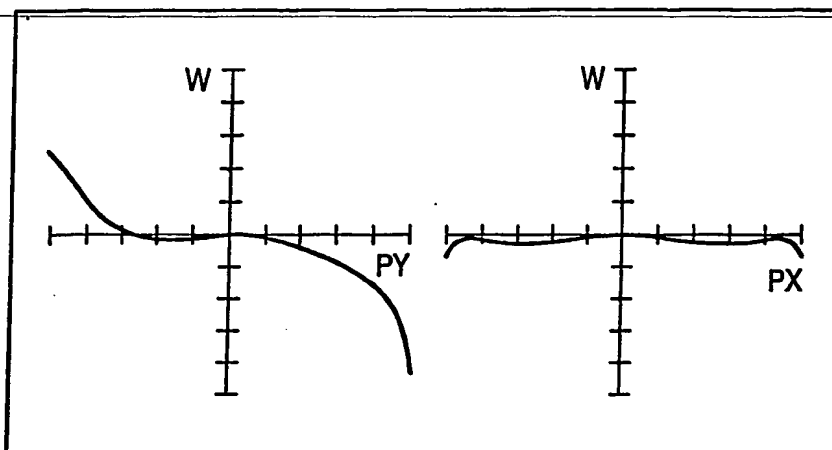


FIG. 4A

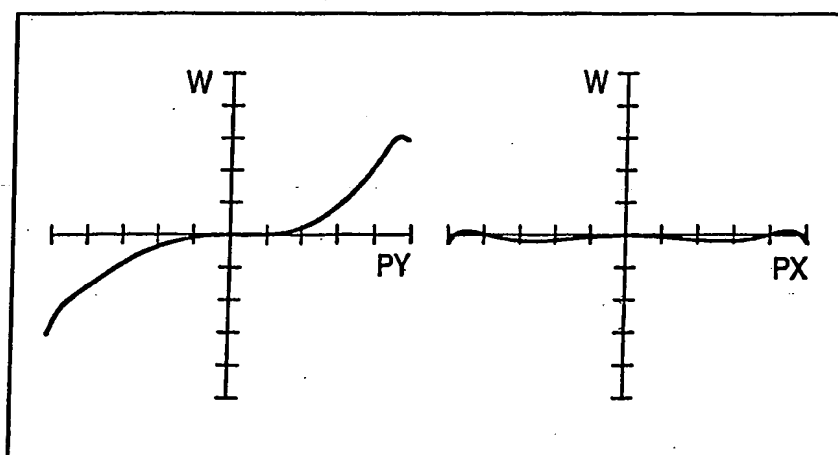


FIG. 4B

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	f	Δ	γ	α_2	α_4	α_2/α_{20}	α_4/α_{40}	$\alpha_2/\alpha_{20} + \alpha_4/\alpha_{40}$	coma (Δ)	coma (γ)
	(mm)	(mm)	(°)	(rad)	(rad)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(mλ RMS)	(mλ RMS)
1	2.75	0.05	0.5	110.8	-12.0	0.50	0.60	1.10	39	29
2	2.75	0.10	0.5	195.3	-2.93	0.89	0.15	1.04	40	48
3	1.80	0.05	0.5	101.4	-7.37	0.70	0.38	1.08	46	44
4	2.75	0.2	0.5	235.2	2.08	1.07	-0.10	0.97	50	59

FIG. 5

	f	Δ	γ	α_2	α_4	α_2/α_{20}	α_4/α_{40}	$\alpha_2/\alpha_{20} + \alpha_4/\alpha_{40}$	coma (Δ)	coma (γ)
	(mm)	(mm)	(°)	(rad)	(rad)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(mλ RMS)	(mλ RMS)
a	2.75	0.07	0.3	215.8	-0.37	0.98	0.02	1.00	21	32
b	2.75	0.13	0.7	217.0	-0.26	0.99	0.01	1.00	39	75

FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 ational Application No
 PCT/IB 02/03905

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G11B7/135 G11B7/125

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 084 843 A (ABE TSUGUHIRO ET AL) 4 July 2000 (2000-07-04) column 2, line 48 -column 3, line 60 column 6, line 16 -column 10, line 67 ---	1,2
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 03, 27 February 1998 (1998-02-27) & JP 09 306018 A (SONY CORP), 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28) abstract ---	1
X	EP 1 109 164 A (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO) 20 June 2001 (2001-06-20) paragraph '0029! - paragraph '0034! --- -/--	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 December 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/12/2002

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Stemmer, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 04, 30 April 1999 (1999-04-30) & JP 11 016194 A (NEC CORP), 22 January 1999 (1999-01-22) abstract	1
X	EP 0 881 634 A (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO) 2 December 1998 (1998-12-02) page 2, line 28 -page 3, line 24	1
X	DE VRIES J E ET AL: "Non-periodic phase structures in optical disc systems" OPTICAL DATA STORAGE 2001, SANTA FE, NM, USA, 22-25 APRIL 2001, vol. 4342, pages 474-485, XP001120653 Proceedings of the SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering, 2002, SPIE-Int. Soc. Opt. Eng, USA ISSN: 0277-786X cited in the application page 474 -page 481	1,2
A	WO 99 57720 A (BROOME BARRY G ;RICHARD JENKIN A (US)) 11 November 1999 (1999-11-11) cited in the application the whole document	1,2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB 02/03905

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 3,4
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 3,4

It is not disclosed how a skilled person would determine the parameters a_{20} and a_{40} of claim 3 and 4 in order to correct the total spherical aberration in the case where $a_4=0$ and $a_2=0$ respectively. Claims 3 and 4 do therefore not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 02/03905

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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